

Interviewed by Kathi Irving, August 25, 2004, at Lucille's home, 175 East 200 South
Transcribed by Marilyn Hunting, November 2004

Kathleen Irving (KI): Please start by telling me where you were born and about your childhood.

Lucille: I was born in Slater, Colorado. That's a little homestead right up the river from Baggs, Wyoming. [That] was where I was born, in a little homestead cabin, and of course, the doctor didn't make it there in time, so a neighbor lady delivered me. I was named for her. Her name was Eva.

KI: What were your parents doing on that homestead?

Lucille: Just living there. Of course, in those days they had to do everything they could to make a living. He used to go every spring and shear sheep all over, and odd jobs.

KI: Would you tell me his name?

Lucille: Charles.

KI: Charles Ledger, right? And your mother's name?

Lucille: Alice.

KI: Did your father have his own livestock that he took care of?

Lucille: Yes. We had a few sheep and a few cattle and, of course, a pig or two and chickens and all that stuff. He put up hay, of course, for the winter. I used to follow behind—they would mow it with a sickle mower, I don't know if you remember those, you probably don't, but anyway, he would mow it and then rake it up and I'd follow along behind. Of course, you'd uncover all these little nests full of mice, little pink mice. I loved animals, so I took those home always. They didn't have any hair, of course, and I fed them sweetened milk, just dunked their heads in. Of course, you know how long they'd live on that. I kept them out in the washer out in the yard there. Of course, my mother was real thrilled about that.

My dad used to trap a lot. He'd trap coyotes and beaver, and, oh, probably muskrats, mink. I also had a trap-line and I'd trap those and then, of course, we skinned them out. Then there was a fellow from someplace, I don't know where he came from, but he would come through and buy all the hides.

KI: Did you make pretty good money from it?

Lucille: Yeah, we did.

KI: I talked a man not too long ago who made a lot of money doing that. He was making a dollar day at his regular job, but if he could trap, he'd make \$30 for a pelt. That was like a whole month's salary in just one shot. Did you have that kind of experience, too? You made pretty good money?

Lucille: Yes. I was raised on illegal deer meat and bear meat.

KI: Really? What did your dad do with the hide of the bear when he got it?

Lucille: I think he sold that, too. He did do some tanning. He mounted a bobcat and a deer head, but I don't believe he tanned [the bear], I think he just sold it when they came.

Let's see, what else? Oh, there was a stream that went by and a few fish in that. I loved to fish; I guess that's probably where I got started.

KI: Where were you in your family order?

Lucille: I was next to the oldest. I was outdoors all of the time. I can't remember the girls being out there with me; of course, I was quite a bit older than the boys.

KI: But your dad needed your help, didn't he?

Lucille: Yes. Of course, I had to milk the cows every morning. I've seen many sunrises. I'd go up to get the calves off the meadow in the mornings. There were quite a lot of sage grouse there. In fact, do you know what a strutting ground is? It's a mating ground for sage chickens. There was one at home there. You'd go out and it was quite a sight at that time of the year to see them on the strutting grounds.

KI: You wouldn't try to kill them at that time?

Lucille: I did. I had a little single shot .22. Yes, we did. We ate the young ones. It is amazing, a lot of people wouldn't have an old sage chicken for anything in the world, but if you put just a little bit in with a tame chicken, for chicken and noodles, it gives it a lovely flavor, kind of a sage-y flavor.

KI: What was your house like.

Lucille: It was a small. Let's see, it had three rooms and a little attic. It was a log cabin. We did have running water in the house. Just above the house was a lovely spring and we did have water piped in.

KI: That is nice, isn't it?

Lucille: Yes, it is and in those days it was unusual because most people weren't lucky enough to have a spring there. Of course, it was heated with, oh, it wasn't a Majestic stove, but it was on that order, with a reservoir on the back for hot water. Of course, we had kerosene lamps. In fact, I

have some of the old ones in there.

KI: Did your father build the house?

Lucille: Yes. It was built of logs.

KI: Did the girls sleep in one room?

Lucille: Yes, we had the one room. The house was right across the road from the schoolhouse, so the teacher usually boarded with us. It was quite a crowded situation, but we made it. Of course, it was real handy for us, we just ran out across the street.

KI: Was it a school that had grades one through eight in it?

Lucille: There were only about, oh maybe, six kids at one time in there, off and on, and they were all in different grades. I made such a fuss, I guess, they sent me to school when I was five. Yes, they taught all grades, even up to the last year of high school. One teacher. When I got big enough, I was the janitor. We had one of these big pot-bellied stoves in the schoolhouse.

KI: That was for your heat?

Lucille: Yes. My senior year of high school I took by correspondence so that I could get in the second semester in college. I had an uncle that was teaching in Manhattan, Kansas, there at the college. That was the Kansas State Agricultural College. After I finished high school, I boarded with them and went to college.

KI: That would make sense. You'd have to board with someone because the expense would be so much. Do you think you got a good education in that school?

Lucille: Yes, very good. There were so few of us, it was almost like having a private tutor.

KI: Where did the children who attended the school come from beside your family?

Lucille: I had an aunt and uncle that lived, oh, I suppose maybe five miles from us and their children went there. And then down the river from us was an old French Canadian, a huge guy. They had six of the meanest kids I've ever seen, boys, every one of them. Most of them were older. I think there was one that was about the same age I was. They went there for a little while, but I don't think any of them finished high school. The younger one might have done, I don't know. Then there were neighbor kids that came in.

KI: You didn't have anyone, a neighbor, that was really close to your house, did you?

Lucille: No. [The Canadian's boys] were the closest and they were probably a half mile or a mile down there. We had some other neighbors. They wouldn't deliver the mail to our place, but they would deliver it to the neighbors, and they would take it in and save it for us, and we'd walk over

and get it.

KI: That must have been exciting!

Lucille: Oh, yes! Yes, we made a lot of trips. In the wintertime, there wasn't much entertainment. They had house parties. Of course, in the winter they'd pile straw in the sleigh, you know, and heat these big river rocks, wrap them in burlap bags, and get all the quilts you could find and you went to the party. They'd dance all night. They'd put the kids to bed when they got tired and then the rest of them danced all night. Of course, there was always scads of food. Everybody brought a lot of food. They would have their party, and then before they went home the next morning, they'd have breakfast of whatever was left over.

KI: It sounds great!

Lucille: Oh, we had quite a time. Of course, there wasn't much entertainment. On the Fourth of July there was always a big picnic, and the neighbors came from all over. Some of the men fished, oh, for two or three days. Have you seen these big wash tubs they used to have? Well, they'd have that plumb full of fish, pan size. They would cook those up and Dutch ovens full of potatoes, fried potatoes. So it was quite an affair on the Fourth of July.

KI: Where did they have that? Was it at someone's house?

Lucille: No. We'd usually go up someplace in the trees. Mostly where there were wasps, as I found out, and I'm allergic to wasps. The men would play horseshoes, and, of course, the women discussed making quilts, and their kids and grandkids, recipes. There wasn't much other entertainment.

KI: Did you sleep out? Was it like a big camp-out for everyone or did you just go for the day?

Lucille: No, they just gathered there for the day. No, they didn't sleep out.

KI: What did the children do?

Lucille: Oh, played games, just ran around, you know.

KI: What kind of games do you remember when you were a child?

Lucille: Oh, of course they played hide and seek and prisoner's base. They had a long log, I don't know how far away it was spaced, probably from here to the sidewalk. I can't remember the rules for it, but anyway, that was their base and they would try to catch each other. I always ended up with a sprained ankle. That was the best place to sprain an ankle, because you'd slide into the log, you know, and sprain your ankle, or I did. Let's see, what else did we do for entertainment? Not much of anything. Of course they danced at the house parties.

KI: So there must have been a few of the people who played instruments?

Lucille: My dad played a fiddle and there was someone, I don't remember, one of them, I think, had a banjo or a guitar, but that was about it. Then, of course, they had these old phonographs and records.

KI: The kind that you crank up?

Lucille: Yes. They would dance to that. Of course, they had square dances and the Schottische, and the Varsouvian, and polkas and two-step.

KI: How old did the children have to be before they could dance?

Lucille: Well, the father of these boys was a great big, fat fellow and as soon as you could walk, he danced with every one of the kids. In fact, he taught us how to dance. Age didn't matter; if they were big enough to dance at all, he danced with them.

KI: When you were finished with school, what made you decide to go to college? Living in a homestead lifestyle like that, I'm sure there wasn't a lot of reason for you to go to college.

Lucille: Well, I had three aunts that were RNs. The one was my mentor. Ever since I could remember, I was going to be a nurse.

KI: Was that your mother's sister or your father's?

Lucille: My father's sister. One of my mother's sisters was an RN and three of his sisters were RNs. But the school that I picked to go to required a year of college.

KI: So you went to the school in Kansas, then went to a special nursing school? It was a different place?

Lucille: Yes.

KI: So, what did you do at the college?

Lucille: I just took the things that they required: chemistry, botany, and you had to have one year of some other language and I took Spanish. Then I went to nurses' school in Denver, Colorado. I graduated from Children's Hospital. We spent the first year was at our own hospital, then they sent the class to Minneapolis for a year of adult training. Those of them that were sent to the Minneapolis General, I think, got everything they needed there, but they divided the class and those that weren't sent there went to the University and to the Miller Hospital in St. Paul. I went to the Miller and the University. There were some things we couldn't get there, so we were sent to the Minneapolis General also.

KI: You spent one year getting a general education and two years in nurses' training?

Lucille: Three.

KI: So, it was four altogether.

Lucille: Four altogether. All through training we had classes every day. Then, of course, you were given the other classes in your nursing. While you didn't have a college degree, per se, you had what was comparable to one when you graduated.

KI: That still happens today, I know. It takes a lot of college. When did you graduate from high school?

Lucille: Do you know, I can't tell you when I graduated from high school. I graduated from nurses' training in 1943.

KI: Just right there in the middle of the war.

Lucille: After I had gone to college, then I worked for a while and saved up what I could, then I borrowed the rest of the money to finish going to school.

KI: You lived through the Depression then. Where were you during the Depression?

Lucille: Probably every place. I did housework. I packed peaches even in Palisades, Colorado. I went all over, just doing housework and various jobs.

KI: Was it hard to find a job?

Lucille: No. Let's see, what else can I tell you?

KI: Well, when you came out of nursing school in 1943, did they want you to go into the service?

Lucille: They did. In fact, we had had our physicals and were just waiting to be called. We didn't go, but we were all ready to go.

KI: Did you specialize in something?

Lucille: No, not particularly. I did have two offers of jobs before I graduated. One was in psychiatry and one in physio-therapy.

KI: What did you do?

Lucille: Well, it was a short time after I graduated that my older sister had a new baby and the doctor told her that if I would come and take care of her, that he would let her go home early. So, as soon as I graduated, I came down. They lived here in Vernal, and I came here in the fall of 1943.

KI: Was this Lois?

Lucille: Yes, that was Lois.

KI: Did she marry the man whose name of Lindstrom?

Lucille: Her husband was Wesley Fleming. After he died, she remarried, and then her name was Lindstrom.

KI: But she was still living here when she had this baby?

Lucille: Yes, and that's how I happened to come down. I wasn't down here but just a little while. She said that I had to stay long enough to weigh a hundred pounds. But anyway, I wasn't here very long. My brother-in-law came in one day and he asked me if I would like to do some private-duty work. He said it wouldn't be only be for a couple of days. So I said yes.

My husband's first wife, they were hunting and she was in an accident. They wanted me to special her. Of course, they didn't think that she would live more than a couple of days, but I think she lived maybe four days, maybe five. So I specialed here, then, of course, they were short of nurses everywhere anyway.

KI: By this time was it just after the war? What year was it, do you remember?

Lucille: It was right shortly after the war. Because that's why they didn't take us. The war ended and they didn't take us, so it was right shortly after that.

KI: Was Dr. Eskelson the major doctor here at the time? Dr. Eskelson was the doctor that recruited Spendlove and Seager to come here.

Lucille: Yes, when I was here Eskelson and Hansen, Joe Hansen [were the primary doctors], and, of course he was killed in an accident, so actually there was just Dr. Eskelson that I remember.

KI: He was really having a struggle because there was no one to help him, wasn't he?

Lucille: Yes, right. I think there was a Dr. Francke, but I didn't know him and he wasn't practicing then.

KI: He was older then, wasn't he?

Lucille: Yes, I think so. His wife, I knew her real well, but I never did know him. I think there was a Dr. Bullock, too, but I didn't know him. So when I came here, there was just Drs. Eskelson and Hansen. Of course later, and I don't remember when, Drs. Spendlove and Seager came later.

KI: Dr. Spendlove just walked into his room and Dr. Eskelson said, "You're a doctor, here go to work. Don't even interview with me, just please, take some of these people and see them right now." He said there was standing room only in his waiting room.

Lucille: Right. Dr. Eskelson was noted for curing pneumonia, or the care anyway. They say he used mustard plaster, but I never did see him use one or have him order one. Although talking about plasters, I used to put mustard plaster on the kids. That was the treatment for pneumonia, I guess.

KI: Tell me what that is.

Lucille: A mustard plaster? Well, you use four tablespoons of flour to one of dry mustard. Mix it up into a paste, not a real thin paste, but fairly so. Then get an old piece of sheet or a smooth piece of cloth and put it on there, then the top one on, put it together. Pin them around so the mustard didn't come out. Fold them over and pin them. Then just put it on their chest and it would just heat up, but you had to watch it pretty close. When the skin started to turn pretty pink, that was enough or you would burn them.

KI: I've heard about them, but I never knew what it was.

Lucille: Well, that's what it was.

KI: After you did your special duties, when you were working with Sam's wife, what was her name?

Lucille: Oh, her name was Leta.

KI: So, she passed away. Then what happened?

Lucille: Well, I went to work at the hospital.

KI: Where was that hospital?

Lucille: It was the old one over in the Episcopal Church. The supervisor and I think one of the other, no I don't believe she moved there until we went to the next hospital, but anyway, there was an apartment above Zions Bank, that was the Bank of Vernal at that time, and the supervisor and I and one other gal lived there.

KI: Who was the supervisor?

Lucille: The supervisor was Elsie Moffatt. She was a nurse. She was a diabetic, but she made the best candy I've ever eaten in my life. She was always making candy.

A little off the subject, but when I was working at the old hospital, the lady that cooked there, if we weren't busy, in the evening we'd make brownies.

KI: Tell me what that hospital. What did it look like?

Lucille: I don't remember an awful lot about it. I think there was about ten or twelve beds. They

did have a small nursery, but they didn't have an obstetrics ward or anything. They were just all put together. They had a four-bed ward, and then upstairs they had two or three rooms. They had a ramp that you had to go up, they didn't have stairs. They had a few rooms up there.

KI: That ramp was pretty steep, wasn't it?

Lucille: Yes, it was. You'd try to take something heavy, an oxygen tank or something, up. It was quite a chore.

KI: Have you been there since they renovated it? They have an elevator in there.

Lucille: Yes, in fact, I think it was about three years ago, they had kind of an open house there. I think there was only about four or five of the old medical staff that were there. Dr. Spendlove didn't go; Dr. Seager was there. Beth Sweatfield and Marilyn Thacker were there. Mary Herman, she wasn't to the party.

KI: When you were working there, what were your days like? Did you work twelve-hour days or eight hours?

Lucille: Eight hours, supposedly, but you never ended up with eight hours. If you were busy, you worked until you were done. Of course, there was just one nurse and, I think, one aide, at least you had one aide part of the time. Whatever came in, if the doctor was busy, I even delivered babies, believe it or not. Of course, they did appendectomies, tonsillectomies. Any of the more serious operations, they tried to send them out, I think.

KI: It was quite a long trip to Salt Lake, though, wasn't it?

Lucille: Yes, it was. Unless it was just absolutely necessary [they did surgery here].

KI: Did you help with the surgery?

Lucille: Yes.

KI: What did you do?

Lucille: Well, everything. You were the instrument nurse, or the surgical nurse, and took care of setting the tables up and giving them the instruments, and help with whatever they needed your help with.

KI: Did you do anesthesia?

Lucille: No. Well, the only anesthesia we did, they gave pentothal in the veins. I've done that lots of times. Usually ether for the deliveries. If they got anything at all, it was ether and you did that.

KI: What about an appendectomy, what kind of anesthesia did you use?

Lucille: Probably ether. That's what they usually used. On some of the things they used what they called a spinal. They injected the anesthesia in the lower back instead of the ether.

KI: Can you remember any particularly bad times or good times at the hospital, problems?

Lucille: No, I can't, not at the old hospital. In fact, I don't think I worked there too long. They were building the new one, and of course, as soon as they finished it, I went over there. But I don't remember anything real bad.

One of the orneriest patients I have heard of in my life was there. Usually I got along well with all of them, but he and I fought every time we looked at each other. He's still alive, too, and he's in his nineties and he can't hear and he can't see.

Since you asked, there was one couple that was just going together. He had surgery and he was in the room upstairs. There was a little porch there and a window. Well of course, we had visiting hours and when visiting hours were over, you chased them out. I had the awfulest time with his girlfriend. She, of course, didn't want to go, but she'd go. Then later on, there must have been a ladder or something there, but she would climb up the ladder and into his room.

KI: People stayed in the hospital a lot longer then, too.

Lucille: Oh, yes. That was another thing in the care of people. It used to be after they had had a baby, maybe the second day they could dangle their legs over the bed. Of course, they couldn't get up and walk or anything. I think they kept them from eight to ten days and wouldn't let them do anything.

KI: That helped them get their milk in and everything, too, though, so you guys could help with that whole situation.

Dr. Seager told me that he found when he was delivering babies that it was very important to get those women up and make them walk around. He said that even though that went against the trend of what other doctors were doing, he thought they didn't get as many blood clots, for example, so he wanted his patients to get up and walk right away. That's what they do now, right away.

Lucille: Right. Well, it's the same with surgery. They get them up just as quick as they can.

KI: So you were at the old hospital for a while, then they built the new one and you moved over.

Lucille: Yes, I don't remember just how long it was. It wasn't very long.

KI: Did you like the new hospital?

Lucille: Yes, it was real nice. I didn't work any of the graveyard shifts which was 11 pm to 7 am at night. I worked a lot of holidays, and I was on-call for surgery twenty-four hours a day, but that was in the second hospital.

KI: Where were you living then?

Lucille: Well, in '44 I married Sam and, of course, we built this house, so I was here.

KI: Did you work the whole time you had the children, too? Were you a working mother?

Lucille: Well, when I married Sam, he had the three kids. One was seven [Ron], and five [Venita], and three [Janet]. So I had them, but I was working.

KI: What did you do for a babysitter?

Lucille: We tried to fix it so that one of us was here most of the time, or lots of times if we had to be gone, they would go up to Sam's older sister's place and stayed. After their mother was killed, they stayed for a while with their grandmother, Sam's mother. But she wasn't able to take care of them, so they lived for a while with his older sister and her husband.

It was hard to do because Sam was the only patrolman out here and he had all of the [Uintah Basin] to patrol to the Colorado line. So there were weeks that he never saw the kids. They would be in school if he was home, then he was on-call all the time; he was out on the road most of the time. So we tried to fix it so that I was home anyway.

KI: Sam was already working for the Highway Patrol when you got married?

Lucille: Yes. He had worked as a deputy sheriff for Herb Snyder. Then he went to work for the Highway Patrol. He worked for them for thirty-five years. He was instrumental in starting a firearms training school. They didn't have any firearms training, so he got that started. Then he did a lot of work toward getting the widows a pension.

KI: I've read lots of stories about Sam.

Lucille: Have you? I don't doubt it!

KI: Will you tell me some stories about him?

Lucille: Well, right off hand I can't think of many. We did a lot of hunting and fishing. I loved to hunt arrowheads and he thought that was a waste of time, so he'd take me someplace and dump me out and he'd sleep while I hunted arrowheads. The places he'd go, he'd know there wouldn't be an arrowhead there on a bet, but just to get rid of me, that's where we'd go. Then, I don't know what happened, but anyway, he found one once and after that he loved to hunt them. So we hunted arrowheads. Of course, they had the Peace Officers Conventions every year and ver seldom did we miss them.

KI: Were they in Salt Lake?

Lucille: They were in different places in Utah.

KI: When he was gone, who came and took over for him, like when he went on vacation or wanted to go to a convention? Did someone come out here an work?

Lucille: They would send somebody in, I guess. I don't remember, but they must have done.

KI: So where did you get married?

Lucille: We were married at Ray Siddoway's home. That was his older sister's place.

KI: I saw a picture of the two of you. He was in his Highway Patrol uniform and you were in a nurse's uniform with a cape. Was that your wedding picture?

Lucille: Yes.

We went to the conventions. They had shooting matches and stuff. I even shot in competition.

KI: Did you do well?

Lucille: Well, I only won one trophy, but for the free-for-all I used to get a lot of merchandise, believe it or not. Now I probably wouldn't be able to hit anything. I was [also] past president of the Ladies Peace Officer Auxiliary.

KI: Were the kids good with you or did you have some struggles?

Lucille: They were pretty good.

KI: The youngest one would have been pretty young.

Lucille: With relatives here it was a little sticky sometimes.

KI: I understand. Did your parents stay over in Slater?

Lucille: No, after the kids left, they moved to Arkansas. Why, I don't know. I have no idea whatever possessed them. But Dad wanted to go to Arkansas, so that's where they went. They lived down there for a few years, then they came back to Vernal.

Side Two

KI: When did you retire?

Lucille: Let's see, I retired when I was sixty-two. I think I've been retired possibly twenty-four or twenty-five years. That's why I can't remember anything.

KI: Things have changed a lot in medicine, haven't they?

Lucille: Oh yes, I should say they have.

KI: Did you stay at the hospital the whole time or did you go to work in a doctor's office?

Lucille: *I worked for several years in the hospital before I went to work in the doctor's office.* I was asking the girl that I worked with [about that] last night, how long I worked in the doctor's office. See, we took turns with the week. She'd work part of the week, then I'd work the other part. But I think it was probably around ten or twelve years that I worked for Seager and Spendlove in the doctor's office.

KI: They had their offices just across the street from where Dr. Seager lives now, didn't they? [75 North 200 West] So that would have been the last ten years.

Lucille: Yes.

KI: Do you want to tell me stories about them? Tell me about their personalities. How were they different from one another?

Lucille: Well, a lot of people thought that Dr. Seager was too strict. He was all business. If he told you to do something, he expected to have it done. He said, "If you aren't going to follow the orders, you're wasting your time and mine, too."

Now, Dr. Spendlove was quite a bit more lenient, I guess you'd call it, oh, a different personality. Lots of times when he was delivering a baby, he'd sit there—he had a beautiful voice—and he'd sing, but he would make up the songs as he was going. Things like that. But Dr. Seager was an excellent doctor. Everybody liked him. A lot of them were afraid of him, but I got along with both of them. *Dr. Spendlove was a very good doctor, too.*

KI: What was your favorite department to work in?

Lucille: I think surgery. I liked surgery real well.

KI: Why is that?

Lucille: Why? Well, I don't know. I have no idea. Yes, I do. I liked surgery and psychiatry. What is it they say: "It takes one to know one." But I liked the disturbed wards better than the convalescent wards.

KI: Did they have very much of that here?

Lucille: I don't think so.

KI: Did they have people come in that you had to treat in the hospital for psychiatric problems?

Lucille: Oh, no. They don't have any facilities for that here at all, I don't think. Those patients were sent to state hospitals that were equipped to do that type of work.

KI: That's a long time to be a nurse. You've seen a lot of changes.

Lucille: Yes, I did. I worked about thirty-three years, I think.

KI: You liked to hunt and fish in your spare time. Did you belong to any organizations other than the Peace Officers Auxiliary?

Lucille: I belonged to the Ladies Aid. That's the Kingsbury Church now. It used to be the Congregational Church. I belonged to Rebecca Lodge. I did belong to the historical one and they couldn't find a president, so they quit it. I belong to the Archaeological Group. I don't think much of anything else because I didn't have time to do a whole lot of stuff.

KI: That's true. Tell me what Vernal was like when you got here. Tell me which businesses you remember and what the city was like.

Lucille: Oh, when I first came in, I came in on a bus and the snow was—they had snow, my land, they piled it up in the middle of the street and you couldn't begin to see over it. They had very few businesses: the Imperial Hall, which was torn down, the Bank of Vernal, which is Zions now, then the other bank, Uintah State Bank. I banked at Bank of Vernal (Zions) for forty years.

KI: Where was Penney's then?

Lucille: Penney's was right there on the corner [northwest corner of Main Street and Vernal Avenue]. I don't remember whether that Sage Café was there then or not. I believe it was. It was up the street. Of course, the post office, you know where that was [northeast corner of 100 West Main]. And what else was there?

KI: Ashton's.

Lucille: Yes, Ashtons. And up where True Value is was Safeway's. Let's see, I can't think of where the others were. I can't even think of the cafés they had. They had Jim's Café. It was one of the older cafés.

KI: Where was it?

Lucille: As I remember, it was up on Main Street there, but I don't know what building's there now. It might be where the Chalet is, it was right in that [area].

KI: Where did you like to shop?

Lucille: Well, just about anyplace I could get what I wanted. Oh! They had a Ben Franklin's store later. I did most of my shopping at Ashton's and at Penney's.

KI: Sometimes I wish we still had Ashton's and Penney's.

Lucille: Oh, I do, too, because it was so handy for me to just walk up, you know, and get groceries or whatever I wanted.

KI: Did you just carry them home?

Lucille: Well, for a while [Ashton's] delivered them, if you had a whole bunch. I used to walk a lot, but the older I get my legs decide they don't want to walk. It makes me so mad because my son and I have been going out a lot looking for pictographs and stuff like that. I can walk on flat ground, but not on climbing anymore.

KI: Do you just go out in our mountains here looking for pictographs.

Lucille: Oh, my land, we've been all over everyplace. I've been down to Nine Mile, I guess, about four times. We went down a couple of times and then I went down with the Archaeological Group. It amazes you how many pictographs and petroglyphs there are. You know where the Chew Ranch is down in Jensen? They've got some beautiful ones down there. Then before you get to Island Park, at McKee Springs, there are some beautiful ones there. We've been over in Lapoint and Altamont and Altonah and Neola, Paradise Park. We go all over the country. In fact, that one over there [picture in the house] is the one of the Red Indian up at Red Fleet. Ronnie [Hatch, her son] climbed up on that ledge and took some pictures of it and then we had them enlarged.

KI: It's very complete. It doesn't look faded.

Lucille: When they enlarged it, I think they probably colored it a little bit more than it was. It's hard to get good pictures when the sun's out. You'd think that's the time you should take it, but it isn't. There's a glare and they don't come out like they do if it's cloudy.

KI: That's interesting. I've never thought about that before. Well, is there anything else you want to tell me about Sam? I'm sitting here looking at a picture of all of his patches and awards. How many years did he work for the Highway Patrol?

Lucille: Thirty five. Like I said, he instigated the firearms training. He did that, taught firearms, for several years. Then, as time went on, they finally got him some help, so he had several troops stationed at different places and he didn't have to go as often. He was the lieutenant.

He used to tell some wild stories, when he was working, about the Rangely oilfield. He was the only one that went that far.

KI: Can you tell me some of those stories?

Lucille: I can think of a dozen of them, but I can't think of any right now. Well, [there was one] down by Jensen. They called him on a van accident and there was one fatality. Of course, he went down and investigated it. He had to go back or get word that he needed an ambulance to bring the body back. There was a young couple who came by and he asked them if they would

mind staying until he could get an ambulance. They said yes, they'd stay. Of course, the body was all covered up with a tarp. He went back, and when he got back there, he went to load the body, and it was gone! They named it "the missing body." I guess it was quite a shock. The kids had left, but the body gone. In the meantime, I guess, this Bessie Swain [a funeral home director] had an ambulance, and she had come down and gotten the body, but nobody told him about it. They used to laugh about it.

KI: Yes, I remember reading about that in an old newspaper. It was pretty funny.

Lucille: Bessie Swain had, I don't know, two or three boys. They used to go to see their girls all the time in the hearse.

Let's see. What are some of the other ones? Well, I won't tell you who they were; you'd probably know them. But I remember one time there in the office, of course where we were, it was just a little small narrow room, we took blood pressures and did stuff like that in there. But anyway, this one day, this woman came in, she was a large woman and she had one of her sons with her. He was about six feet tall. You could hear them coming into the door. He'd say, "Mom, I'm not going to have that shot. I'm not going to have it." "Oh, yes, Richard, you are going to have it." She finally got him down there and this went on and on. I got the shot all ready to give. Finally, we all ended up in that little space, arms and legs just a-flying, and him still yelling, "I'm not going to have it! I'm not going to have it!" Anyway, he got his shot, but how I ever gave it, I'll never know. I was laughing so hard, and all I could think of was, "My golly, if Dr. Seager comes in now, he won't even wait for me to get my lunch bucket, he'll fire me."

KI: How old was the boy at the time?

Lucille: Oh, I imagine he was probably about fourteen. But he was tall, a great big kid. She sat on his head finally for us to give the shot. Like I say, how I ever gave that I'll never know. He had a twin and I was telling him about it one time and he said, "Oh, that must have been Richard, that wasn't me!" But I think it was him.

KI: Oh, that's funny. He probably doesn't even care or remember anymore.

Lucille: Oh, I know!

KI: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about? Do you remember any controversial issues in the community? Did you ever get involved in any of that?

Lucille: No, I don't particularly, I don't think. I can't think of any.

KI: Do you remember anything that became a real health issue? Did they still do a lot of quarantines and have a lot of childhood illnesses when you were practicing? Things they immunize for now? Like an outbreak of any kind of disease?

Lucille: No, I don't believe so. Oh, the flu periodically. Lots of times you'd have that. But I can't remember anything like that. And I don't remember any real bad accidents. We'd get bad ones,

like a bus wreck or stuff like that.

KI: Dr. Seager told me there were a lot of oilfield accidents.

Lucille: Yes, there was.

KI: So what kinds of things happened to people?

Lucille: Oh, accidents on the rigs, a lot of them, were with the heavy machinery, and there were a lot coming to and from work. They'd work late hours, sleepy and whatnot, or they would decide when they got off work that they should have a few drinks and there were a lot from that. We did get some accidents. I say there weren't any bad ones, but at the Bonanza mine, we got some from there.

KI: Would that have been in 1953 when there was that explosion out there?

Lucille: Yes.

KI: I know about the eight people who died, but did you have others who were injured?

Lucille: I can't remember. We probably did.

KI: What did the second hospital look like? How many beds do you think were there?

Lucille: You know, I can't tell you. I don't remember.

KI: Would it have been like two times bigger or three times bigger than the hospital in the Episcopal parish house?

Lucille: Probably about three times bigger. I should know how many beds there were. Of course, over there they had the supply room where all the sterilizing was done and two operating rooms and the nursery.

I don't know if I told you or not, but at the old hospital, while they had a small nursery, they put them [the patients] all together, the mothers and the medical ones were all in the same rooms.

KI: Did they have curtains they pulled down for privacy?

Lucille: Yes, you'd bring the baby in and let her feed the baby, then take them back out. But they were all in the same rooms. Of course, they had a special [section] at the other hospital for that.

KI: What did the nursery look like in the old Episcopal hospital?

Lucille: Oh, just a small place with a bunch of little bassinets. Of course, now, and even then, but not at the old hospital, but they let the husband come in the delivery room and all that. But they

never did in the old one. In fact, they almost made them put on masks to look through the window!

KI: So what do you think is better, now, or was it better then?

Lucille: Oh, much better now.

KI: It's not just the husband that can go when I baby's born. Practically anybody can go when a baby's born now.

Lucille: Oh, yes, yes. Even when they're nursing them, boy it doesn't matter, they can go in and see them.

KI: Yes, it's really different. Tell me why they call you Shorty.

Lucille: Well, when we were building this place, we lived in the basement in an apartment while they were building upstairs. Well, after we got this part done, then we rented the basement for a while. There was this big driller, typical Texan. He had the nicest wife, she was just as neat and clean as she could be. She would practically make him undress—there was a little room down there by the door—and put on clean clothes before she'd let him in the house. As soon as he'd get home, he had a great big jar of jalapeño peppers that he ate two or three of before dinner at night. But anyway, the first time he saw me, he nicknamed me Shorty, and after that, half of Vernal called me Shorty. Of course, the older people still do now. We always had a pickup with a rack on it and Ronny, our son, had welded "Sam and Shorty" across the back of it. People would stop us and ask who was Sam and who was Shorty. That's how I got that name. Dr. Seager always called me Lou. Some of them call me Lucy. The grandkids call me Grandma 'Cille. I answer to anything.

KI: How many grandchildren do you have now?

Lucille: Let's see, I have ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

KI: How long has Sam been gone?

Lucille: It was five years last July.

KI: I'm glad you've got family here. It's good to have them around, isn't it? Who were Sam's brothers and sisters?

Lucille: There was Ed and Bert and Boyd. Bert issued drivers licenses for a while. Boyd was the older one. Then he had three sisters, Tess, the one that married Siddoway, and Carol, and Donna. Of all of them, Donna is the only one alive now, Donna Merrill, married Frank Merrill. He worked down at the airport for a long time. She's the only one left alive.

KI: It gets that way after a while, doesn't it. I think we've covered pretty much everything here. Is there anything else you want to tell me?

Lucille: I can't think of anything else. I have a garden, flowers. I don't drive. I don't like to cook very well, so we eat out a lot. I love to fish, but I haven't been fishing for a long time. Of course, the BLM took a dim view of hunting arrowheads, you can't hunt them anymore.

KI: Have you got a collection of arrowheads, though?

Lucille: Oh, yes, there are some of them up there and there's a lot of them, different things on the table there.

KI: They are beautiful. Thank you so much for talking with me today. I really enjoyed our conversation.